

DD/S&T#

3146-10

6 November 1972

The Honorable Albert C. Hall
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Intelligence)
Room 3E 282
The Pentagon

Dear Al:

I gather from discussion with our representative to the first meeting of the COINS Review Group which you established under Mike Malkin that there seemed to be some effort toward expanding the deliberations of the group beyond looking at the COINS problem, in favor of an over-all review of information exchange systems, with particular reference to those of primary interest to DOD. Obviously you will want to look into the intra-departmental problems but, as we understood the purpose of this group, it was to look at the community COINS system, with particular reference to user requirements. This seems to be the overriding community problem that needs attention just now, as outlined in your letter of September 12th and Dick Helms' reply of September 22nd.

I am attaching a suggested set of terms of reference as a basis for guiding the deliberations of this group, which I would hope would be discussed at its next meeting. These are certainly not perfect but it seems to me they are more in line with what we all intended to achieve in establishing this group. These terms of reference particularly emphasize the user needs.

I am sure you will agree that we should get on with this task as quickly as possible. If it seems reasonable to you, a target date of no later than February 1st would seem to be in order. This date would make it possible to take into account the findings of the group in considering allocations of FY 1973 funds, in the planned use of funds already contained in the various departmental budgets for FY 1974 which must be addressed with the Congress next spring, and in the follow-on requirements, if any, we will be considering in the FY 1975 program development in the coming months.

General Taylor or I are ready to meet with you or your representative at any time for further discussion, if you wish.

Sincerely,

25X1A

[Redacted Signature]

Acting D/DCI/IC

Attachment
Terms of Reference

IC:TAP:dm

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - Dr. Steininger, ADDS&T✓

1 - [Redacted]

1 - Mr. Briggs, D/PPB

1 - Gen. Taylor, C/IHC

1 - [Redacted]

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GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE

This review will focus on the COINS information exchange system, including likely Washington-area user requirements for the system for the next three to five years. Given below are the general guidelines that should be employed by the Review Group in its evaluation of the COINS system.

1. Viewing COINS as a prototype automated data exchange system, consider the adequacy and the limitations of the present COINS system to fulfill intelligence community needs in the Washington area. Evaluate COINS utilization and effectiveness in support of the needs of a wide range of users at different processing stages and with different functions, with particular attention to the problems posed by the needs of all-source users.
2. Identify presently available files that would be of value in a multi-agency exchange system, including files that are now in COINS, and those that are not.
3. Identify new files that might be of value to have in such a system. Identify the needs for and the appropriate methods of accomplishing exchange.
4. The Review Group should consider the efficacy of the COINS system as an instrument for improving the intelligence product and associated analytic processes. Throughout all phases of this review, draw where possible on studies previously completed or under way which provide information or help illuminate the issues involved.
5. Those resources, both manpower and hardware, in each agency which are currently committed to COINS should be identified.